

SCS SBs 586 & 651 -- SCHOOL FUNDING & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Wasson (Swan)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 11 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 7 to 2.

SCHOOL FUNDING (Section 163.011, RSMo)

This bill modifies the definition of "current operating expenditures" by removing the 2010 expiration date on the 5% per calculation cap on the growth of current operating expenditures.

The bill also modifies the definition of "state adequacy target." The recalculation of the state adequacy target will never result in a decrease from the state adequacy target as calculated for fiscal years 2017 and 2018 and any state adequacy target figure calculated subsequent to fiscal year 2018.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (Section 163.018)

The bill clarifies that charter schools will receive early childhood education funding at the same time as the district in which the charter school is located.

This section is substantially similar to a provision contained in CCS SCS HCS HB 42 (2015).

This bill contains an emergency clause.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say the 5% current operating expenditure (COE) cap was removed in anticipation of gambling revenues that never came to expected fruition. The cap needs to be reinstated so the foundation formula can eventually be fully funded. A bill two years ago created the entitlement of charter schools to early childhood funding; however, the past bill failed to implement a phase-in provision. The phase-in provision addresses the order by which funds are given and received.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Wasson and Missouri Charter Public School Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.